

1 Claims

2 1. A method of promoting tissue repair
3 comprising the step of administering a
4 compound which modulates the function of beta
5 1 integrin to a tissue in need of repair.

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7 2. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the
8 compound modulates the metalloproteinase
9 (MMP) balance.

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11 3. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the
12 compound modulates apoptosis.

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14 4. The method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the
15 modulation of the apoptotic activity has a
16 resultant modulation in the metalloproteinase
17 (MMP) balance.

18
19 5. An assay method for identifying compounds
20 suitable for use in tissue repair, said assay
21 comprising the steps of:
22 - providing a candidate compound,
23 - bringing the candidate compound into contact
24 with beta 1 integrin,
25 - determining the presence or absence of
26 modulation of beta 1 integrin activity by the
27 candidate compound,

1 wherein modulation of beta 1 integrin activity
2 is indicative of utility of that compound in
3 tissue repair.

4

5 6. A method of claim 5 wherein modulation of
6 beta 1 integrin activity is assessed by
7 monitoring variance in the MMP level.

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9 7. A method of claim 5 or 6 wherein modulation
10 of beta 1 integrin activity is assessed by
11 the resulting modulation on apoptosis.

12

13 8. A method of any one of the preceding claims
14 wherein the compound modulates the function
15 of beta 1 integrin, wherein modulation
16 includes a change in the function of, or the
17 shedding of beta 1 integrin.

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19 9. A method of any one of the preceding claims
20 wherein the compound binds the beta 1
21 integrin molecule in the region of amino acid
22 residues 82 to 87 of the sequence of the
23 mature beta 1 integrin molecule.

24

25 10. A method of any one of the preceding claims
26 wherein the compound binds the amino acid
27 sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, TAEKLK.

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- 1 11. A method as claimed in any one of the
2 preceding claims wherein the compound is a
3 synthetic peptide.
- 4
- 5 12. A method as claimed in any one of the
6 preceding claims wherein the compound is an
7 antibody.
- 8
- 9 13. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 6
10 to 9 wherein the compound is a humanised or
11 chimaeric antibody.
- 12
- 13 14. Use of a compound which binds to the beta 1
14 integrin in the preparation of a medicament
15 for the treatment of injured tissue.
- 16
- 17 15. Use of a compound according to claim 12,
18 wherein the compound is an antibody.
- 19 16. Use of a compound according to claim 13,
20 wherein the antibody is the monoclonal
21 antibody produced by the commercial clone
22 JB1a.
- 23 17. A compound identified by the method of claim
24 5.
- 25 18. A pharmaceutical composition for use in
26 tissue repair wherein the composition
27 includes as an active ingredient, a compound
28 which modifies the function of beta 1
29 integrin.